



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

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**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes**

**April 25, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

**Heritage Landing Community Room, 415 1st Street North**

Attendees: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Daniel Mays, Jackie Peacha, Andy Risvold, Scott Woller, Fritz Kroll, Irina Brown, and Fred Dawe

1. April Board Meeting called to order at 7:01 P.M.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Fritz, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda.**
3. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Fred, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the March Meeting minutes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement:
  - a. Dave, a North Loop neighbor, mentions that during last year's cleanup he was given gloves and garbage bags at Corner Coffee and that he is looking for information on how to get them again. The City has supplied the items already and they will be distributed in the same manner this year.
  - b. Jonette Kuhna (consultant engaged by the City) and Simon Ludsky from the Public Works Department present on the layout approval for the Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction project. The goal is to rebalance space away from such a heavy vehicle focus. A concept with wide sidewalks and bike lanes has been approved and has a base cost of \$20 million, which will be fully funded by the State, City, and Federal governments. Funding for additional enhancements (i.e. lighting, trees, crossings) would have to come from elsewhere. The project began in 2016 and is currently in the preliminary design phase. The next step is a council approved layout. There are many more opportunities for public input. Potentially by 2021, assessments would need to be put in place. There is an open house meeting scheduled tomorrow at the Hennepin Theatre Trust (900 Hennepin Avenue) from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. Project materials and information are available at [hennepindowntown.com](http://hennepindowntown.com). Tim asked about Hennepin Avenue from Washington Avenue to the River. Jonette replies that there is no funding right now for that stretch, though it is included in the concept plan. However, north of

Washington Avenue, Hennepin Avenue is a County road, so funding for the project does not proceed north from there. There is a tentative start date of 2019, with street work from 2020 through 2021. There is no information on traffic closures or patterns at this time; the current process is more concerned with identifying utilities and working around them.

5. Council Member Engagement

- a. Council Member Ellison was not present.
- b. Council Member Fletcher – Dave Zaffrann, Council Member aide, discusses the many pedestrian improvements set for the North Loop in 2019. The NLNA will be hosting a special meeting on May 10 at 4:30 P.M. to discuss pedestrian safety from Heritage Landing to Second Street by the railroad crossing; both Minneapolis Police Department and the Department of Public Works will be in attendance. The Duffy Paper site has been sold to Dominion to be redeveloped. The Federal Reserve surface parking lot has closed and will be replaced by a structured parking garage; few details have been forthcoming on this project. Council Member Fletcher is focusing on a clean energy partnership and is going to put forward a resolution for a 100% renewable energy requirement for City uses by 2030, 10% of which would be locally produced in the City. Diane asked about Dominion project and Jackie responded that it is on the agenda for the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting next month.

6. Finance Report – Irina Brown

- a. Fred and Diane didn't get the finance Google Doc. Irina wants to start housing all finance docs on Google Drive. She would have editing privileges; the rest would have viewing privileges. Irina started keeping track of donations. She will start prepping financials at the end of the month.

7. Secretary's Report – Jackie Peacha

- a. Both the Board and P&Z meetings could relocate to a T3 conference room.

8. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports

- a. Planning & Zoning – Jackie Peacha
  1. Edward's Dessert Kitchen, a concept restaurant by Schwan's, will open on Washington Avenue across from Red Rabbit. It will feature 30 different dessert menu items and be open from 10:00 A.M to 10:00 P.M. It will also feature a specialty cocktail bar. The P&Z Committee had voted to provide a letter of support for their liquor license application. **A motion is made by Diane, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the letter in support of the liquor license application.**
  2. Pour Your Own taproom is on track to open in early July.
- b. Community Engagement – Scott Woller
  1. North Loop Food Truck Fair is scheduled for Sunday, May 6, 2018. Scott brought handouts for people to distribute. He reached out to Rock Island and they had no concerns. The fair does need volunteers from 7:00 to 7:45 P.M. to help clean up.
  2. Earth Day Cleanup has been rescheduled and will now be coordinated with the scheduled Washington Avenue cleanups.

3. National Night Out is August 7 this year. Scott is looking for help from some volunteers.
  4. The annual Board meeting has been scheduled for January 30, 2019 at Muse.
- c. North Loop Website and Social Media Outreach – Diane Merrifield and Jackie Peacha
1. Volume has been trending back upward to over 4,000. There have been new subscribers (13 in the last month) and 212 visits off Facebook; some traffic has been referred from LinkedIn as well.
  2. Jackie and Diane met to talk about the site, specifically: commerce functionality and the ability to sell merchandise and solicit donations, search function capability (there are over 800 listings on the site at present), a history subsite, and a sponsorship page.
- d. Historic Preservation and Public Art – Mark Huting
1. Pat Dawson, local historian, and Mark go to the library each Monday and pour through materials that the librarians pulled for them on the North Loop neighborhood. He presented on former structures and their uses in the North Loop. They are exploring the possibility of putting up plaques commemorating interesting spots. They have contacted Steve Yeager, head of marketing at the Star Tribune, to explore a potential partnership.
- e. North Loop Business Engagement – Andy Risvold
1. Andy is considering a potential brunch or happy hour before a Twins game to which the NLNA would invite the mayor, police chief, and other dignitaries, too.
  2. He is going to breweries to develop a “brewery passport” (which would cost \$20 to \$25 to sell at events (i.e. the Food Truck Fair).
- f. Parks and Beautification – Mark Huting and Fred Dawe
1. Fritz covered for Mark.
  2. Washington Avenue Trees: Fritz has been working with Greco on the cost of the planting beds. Irina addresses the \$6,000 gap; if no fencing or lighting were to be included, the gap is decreased to \$3,000. Irina would be happy to donate \$1,500 and asks that the NLNA cover the remaining \$1,500. **A motion is made by Fritz, seconded by Daniel, and approved unanimously by the Board to donate \$1,500 for the planting beds.**
  3. Pedestrian Plaza: It is still being explored whether the park could be included within the City system.
  4. Dog park: In order to have City approval, a survey needs to be completed. They have been in touch with people regarding cleaning up the dog park itself, as well as the area surrounding the land.
  5. Washington Avenue Monument: Tim and Mark have completed Phase 1; they have now moved onto a funding strategy. MNDOT assigned a new staff person to the project; it will give \$15,000 in plants and trees, but the NLNA would have to raise \$25,000 for the project. The plan instead is to raise \$20,000 in the fall and another \$300,000 next year.
  6. Fritz requests up to \$1,000 for Robin who works on the flower beds and up to \$1,500 for S&S who perform the tree watering services. **A motion is made by Scott, seconded by Andy, and approved unanimously**

**by the Board to pay up to \$1,000 to Robin for the landscaping services and up to \$1,500 to S&S for watering services.**

- g. Neighborhood Safety – Daniel Mayes
  - 1. Within the entire First Precinct this year there have been 301 incidences; 34 of which have occurred in the North Loop; 31 of those have been property-related crimes and many of those have been vehicle-related crimes. Tim and Dan and other neighborhood group representatives are going to meet with the First Precinct next week. Diane suggests conducting a poll to find the most important safety questions in the neighborhood to address at this meeting. Scott suggests they can launch the survey on Facebook.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Sponsorship and Fundraising Activities

- 1. The grand opening celebration for YouthLink in on May 15, 2018 at 4:00 pm.
- 2. The groundbreaking celebration for Great River Landing on 5th Street is on May 3, 2018 from 5:30 to 7:00 P.M.
- 3. The City has an “Adopt a Trash Can” program. The City donates the container and then participants pay for 12 months to have them emptied or they empty the containers themselves. Tim says that he and Mark are going to look for businesses to donate to the program, but that for now they’ll go the no cost route.

10. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

Adjourned at 8:43 P.M.